

**WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**TIME:** 5:00 pm, Wednesday, October 15, 2008

**PLACE:** Lower Level Conference Room

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dave Buck	Chris Leroux
	Vicki Burch	Chris Pekny
	John Cox	Boudewijn van Gelder
	Bernadette Farris	

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Beth Cook	Ann Hunt
	Cesni Ennis	Jim Knapp
	Wendy Field	Karen O'Farrell

Mr. van Gelder brought the meeting to order. It was determined there was not a quorum. The meeting continued as informational only.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**08-06 Proposed Changes to City Code Sections 41.09 and 41.10**

Ann Hunt summarized the ordinance that was approved at the October city council meeting. Of the thirteen appointed citizen members, eight will be appointed by the mayor, and five district representatives will be appointed by the council. The mayor and the city attorney have been removed from the commission, and a quorum will be seven. Mr. Buck will get a clarification from the city attorney regarding who on the commission has voting privileges. This may impact what is required to form a quorum.

The changes to city code took effect when the mayor signed the ordinance. It was suggested that existing members finish their current terms, and new members will start on January 1, 2009. Mrs. Hunt urged current district representatives contact their respective council representatives if they wanted to serve another term.

**08-05 Pedestrian Crossings ~ Mid Block Crossings**

Mr. Buck stated that his department has been investigating several potential mid-block crossing sites. He suggested that if we are going to start implementing mid-block crossings, he would like to have a set of criteria that we use to evaluate each location. Currently, his office is investigating two sites for potential mid-block crossings; North and Grant, and Columbia and Northwestern.

At North and Grant, existing ramps would allow two crossings on Grant at North Street; one north and one south of the intersection. A crossing south of the intersection appears to be the preferred location as there are fewer turning movements from North Street and existing ramps are in place. Signs would be installed at each end of the crosswalk, with a possible third sign between the two travel lanes. There was some concern that the sign between the two travel lanes would be hit or vandalized, and need to be

constantly replaced. Additional paint and signage would be added. Jim Knapp stated that Purdue would be willing to assist with the cost of a pedestrian crossing at this location.

At Northwestern and Columbia, Mr. Buck stated that the Engineering department had completed traffic counts last spring, but his office will need to repeat those this fall. Jeromy Grenard had suggested curb work to make the crosswalk shorter, and taking some parked cars off of Northwestern to increase sight distance. Signage would be added, possibly in advance of the curve, to notify vehicles of the crosswalk. Panda Express is building a restaurant at this location. Any concrete work should be coordinated with this project.

Captain Leroux stated that he felt education is the key to making a mid-block crossing work. Drivers will need to learn to yield to pedestrians. Mr. Buck stated that some studies have shown that there is an increase in rear-end crashes when mid-block crossings are installed. There is also a concern that pedestrians will have a false sense of security when using a crosswalk. Both Northwestern and Grant have two travel lanes. Mrs. Hunt commented that one lane may stop for a pedestrian, while the other lane may not. A pedestrian in the crosswalk may be blocked by the stopped vehicle and not seen by a vehicle going through the second lane.

Mr. Buck will bring a more formal sketch for the commission to vote on.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:00 pm, **Tuesday**, November 18, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.M. Buck', written in a cursive style.

David M. Buck, P.E.  
City Engineer

DMB/wf